Refine Search

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L26 and (vendor or merchant or seller) and (match or compare or verify or verifying)	164

Database:
US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
US Patents Full-Text Database
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EPO Abstracts Database
JPO Abstracts Database
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IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

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Search History

DATE: Saturday, March 04, 2006   Printable Copy   Create Case

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	DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
L27	L26 and (vendor or merchant or seller) and (match or compare or verify or verifying)	164	L27
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L2	L1 and accounts adj2 payable	215	L2
L1	(check or draft or credit) same (merchant or vendor or seller) same (payment or pay or invoice) same account$	3007	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

☐ [Generate Collection] [Print]

L21: Entry 21 of 23   File: USPT   Jan 13, 2004

US-PAT-NO: 6678664
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6678664 B1

TITLE: Cashless transactions without credit cards, debit cards or checks

DATE-ISSUED: January 13, 2004

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY   STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Ganesan; Ravi   Norcross   GA

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY   STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY   TYPE CODE
CheckFree Corporation   Dublin   OH   02

APPL-NO: 09/299102   [PALM]
DATE FILED: April 26, 1999

INT-CL-ISSUED: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/39; 235/379
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/39; 235/379

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 235/379, 705/39, 364/406
See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[Search Selected] [Search ALL] [Clear]

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	3852571	December 1974	Hall et al.	235/61.7
☐	4701601	October 1987	Francini et al.	235/449
☐	4734564	March 1988	Boston et al.	235/380
☐	4734858	March 1988	Schlafly	364/408
☐	4747050	May 1988	Brachtl et al.	364/408
☐	4775935	October 1988	Yourick	364/401
☐	4799156	January 1989	Shavit et al.	364/401
☐	4812628	March 1989	Boston et al.	235/380

☐	4822985	April 1989	Boggan et al.	235/380
☐	4947028	August 1990	Gorog	235/381
☐	4961142	October 1990	Elliott et al.	364/408
☐	4977595	December 1990	Ohta et al.	380/24
☐	4992940	February 1991	Dworkin	364/401
☐	5206488	April 1993	Teicher	235/380
☐	5220501	June 1993	Lawlor et al.	364/408
☐	5255182	October 1993	Adams	364/405
☐	5283829	February 1994	Anderson	380/24
☐	5287270	February 1994	Hardy et al.	364/408
☐	5319542	June 1994	King, Jr. et al.	364/401
☐	5325290	June 1994	Cauffman et al.	364/401
☐	5326959	July 1994	Perazza	235/379
☐	5336870	August 1994	Hughes et al.	235/379
☐	5383113	January 1995	Kight et al.	364/401
☐	5420405	May 1995	Chasek	235/379
☐	5428684	June 1995	Akiyama	380/25
☐	5453601	September 1995	Rosen	235/379
☐	5455407	October 1995	Rosen	235/380
☐	5465206	November 1995	Hilt et al.	364/406
☐	5477038	December 1995	Levine et al.	235/380
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☐	5500513	March 1996	Langhans et al.	235/380
☐	5557516	September 1996	Hogan	364/406
☐	5557518	September 1996	Rosen	364/408
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☐	5655089	August 1997	Bucci	395/240
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☐	5699528	December 1997	Hogan	395/240
☐	5710887	January 1998	Chelliah et al.	395/226
☐	5715314	February 1998	Payne et al.	380/24
☐	5717989	February 1998	Tozzoli et al.	705/37
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	5732400	March 1998	Mandler et al.	705/26

☐

☐   5949043   September 1999   Hayashida   235/379

☐   6003762   December 1999   Hayashida   235/379

ART-UNIT: 3624

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Akers; Geoffrey R.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP

ABSTRACT:

Cashless transactions are performed by transmitting information identifying a purchaser of a product without identifying a payment account for the purchaser. The transmitted identifying information is received at a central processing point and processed to determine if the purchaser is a registered purchaser. A notice confirming registration, which may take the form of a purchase authorization, is transmitted from the central processing point if the purchaser is determined to be registered. The transmitted notice is received at the point of purchase and a bill is generated for the purchased product responsive to receipt of the notice.

31 Claims, 15 Drawing figures

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L21: Entry 21 of 23   File: USPT   Jan 13, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6678664 B1
TITLE: Cashless transactions without credit cards, debit cards or checks

Brief Summary Text (15):
One reason is that electronic bill payment services are generally provided by other
than providers of accounts payable software. To pay bills electronically, a
business payer must somehow transfer data output from the particular accounts
payable software application being utilized to the electronic bill payment system.
One way to do this is to manually input data generated by the accounts payable
software application to the electronic bill payment system. Manual transfer is a
tedious and error prone process. To solve this problem, it has been proposed that
specialized software be developed to electronically transfer the data generated by
the accounting software application in use to the electronic bill payment system.
Others have proposed programming electronic bill payment systems to perform a
database query on a new database created using the data output from the applicable
accounts payable software and to import the files from this new database for use in
performing electronic bill payment processing. It has been further proposed to
program electronic bill payment systems to enter the pre-existing database files of
the accounts payable software application in use and import the necessary
information.

Brief Summary Text (16):
Each of the above methodologies requires substantial modifications to the processes
and/or accounts payable software being utilized by payers, and hence substantial
cost and effort to implement. This may not be a significant problem for large
business entities, since their accounts payable software is often specially
developed for their own use and large entities tend to have the necessary expertise
and resources to make whatever modifications are required. However, smaller
business entities tend to use off the shelf standard accounts payable software and
often have little understanding of the software operations, except as a user, and
little if any resources to make modifications to the software.

Brief Summary Text (17):
Another reason for the reluctance of some to register for electronic bill
presentment and payment is that electronic bill presentment services are also
generally provided by other than providers of invoicing software. Thus, to
electronically present a bill, a business payee must somehow transfer data output
from the particular invoicing software application being utilized to the electronic
bill presentment system. Here again, this could be done by manually inputting data
generated by the invoicing software application to the electronic bill presentment
system, developing specialize software, or programming electronic bill presentment
systems to perform a database query on a new database or existing database of
information. However, this would also require substantial modifications to the
processes and/or invoicing systems being utilized by payees, and hence substantial
cost and effort to implement. Here again, although this may not be a significant
problem for large business entities, since their invoicing software is often
specially developed for their own use and large entities typically have substantial
expertise and resources to make whatever modifications are required, smaller
business entities most often use off the shelf standard invoicing software and have
little understanding of how the software operates, except as a user, and little if

any resources to make modifications to the software.

Brief Summary Text (26):
Hence, using the invention, cashless purchases can be made, either in person or
over a network, without a credit card, such as a VISA.TM., MASTERCARD.TM., or
DISCOVERCARD.TM., a debit card, or a check. Further, using the invention as
described herein, a purchaser need not disclose any payment account information,
e.g. a bank account number, credit card account number or debit card account
number, to sellers. Rather, general identifying information is all that is required
to make cashless purchases. This is true whether the purchased product will be paid
for by immediately transferring deposited or credited funds in the purchaser's
payment account to the seller, or by subsequently transferring such funds, say
within thirty (30) days from the date of purchase, to the seller.

Brief Summary Text (27):
The immediate payment feature allows purchasers to make non-credit purchases much
as they do today using debit cards or checks, but without the need to carry a debit
card or checkbook or to divulge a debit or checking account number to the seller.
The delayed payment feature allows purchasers to make credit purchases in much the
same way as they do today using credit cards, but without the need to carry a
credit card or to divulge a credit card account number to the seller.

Detailed Description Text (4):
Although, as shown, each of the payer stations 110A-110D and payee stations 120A-
120D, can communicate with the central clearinghouse station 140 via the Internet
150, for purposes of the following description, only certain of the payers A-D and
payees E-H are registered to electronically present and/or pay bills on network
150. More particularly, for purposes of the following discussion, payer D and
payees F and G are unregistered users of network 100. Further, payer A is an
individual and payer B is a small business entity which utilizes a standard
accounts payable software package. Payee H is also a small business entity which
utilizes a standard invoicing software package.

Current US Class (2):
705

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☐ [Generate Collection] [Print]

     L21: Entry 22 of 23   File: USPT   Mar 11, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6532450
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6532450 B1

TITLE: Financial management system including an offset payment process

DATE-ISSUED: March 11, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY   STATE   ZIP CODE   COUNTRY
Brown; Zipora   Fairfax   VA
Baker; Michael Vernon   Herndon   VA

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:
NAME   CITY   STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY TYPE CODE
American Management Systems, Inc.   Fairfax   VA   02

APPL-NO: 09/207681   [PALM]
DATE FILED: December 9, 1998

INT-CL-ISSUED: [07] G06 F 17/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/40
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/40

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 705/30, 705/40, 705/38
See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

                        U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

            [Search Selected]   [Search ALL]   [Clear]

         PAT-NO   ISSUE-DATE   PATENTEE-NAME   US-CL
☐   5390113   February 1995   Sampson
☐   5875435   February 1999   Brown   705/30
☐   5966698   October 1999   Pollin   705/34
☐   5991733   November 1999   Aleia et al.   705/8
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☐   6073104   June 2000   Field   705/1

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WO94/23528	October 1994	WO	

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Cordell, Larry, "Scoring Tools to Battle Delinquencies", Mortgage Banking, vol. 58, p49, 5p., Feb. 1998.*
"TSYS Forms Strategic Alliance with Rothernberg Systems International: Offers One-of-a-kind, Window-Based Integrated Recovery System to Clients", Dialog File 16, Access No. 04585201/9, Sep. 1996.*
"http://www.rsi-world.com/news/narex.htm", About RSI page. News release, Jul. 1998.*
Olsen, Florence, "Agencies are due $50 billion but systems can't collect", Government Computer News, v16, n36, p8, Dec. 1997.*
Foltin et al., "Beyond Expert Systems:, Neural networks in accounting", National Public Accountant, v41n6, pp:26-30, Jun. 1996*
News Release, "TSYS forms strategic alliance wit Rothenberg System International: Offers One-of-a-Kind, Windows-Based Recovery System to Clients", Dialog File 16, Access No. 0458201, Sep. 1996.*
Dynacomp, Inc. (095443).*
Debt Management Services Financial Management Services, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Treasury Offset Program, Agency Implementation Guide, May, 1997, pps. 1-1 to 8-2 and A-1 to N-2.
American Management Systems, Inc., Automated Disbursements, Momentum Financials User's Guide, Version 3.0, Nov. 1997, pps. 1-6.
American Management Systems, Inc., Accounts Payable, Momentum Financials User's Guide, Version 3.0, Aug., 1997, pps. 1-4.
American Management Systems, Inc., Accounts Receivable, Momentum Financials User's Guide, Version 3.0, Aug. 1997, pps. 1-6.

ART-UNIT: 3621

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Elisca; Pierre E.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Staas & Halsey LLP

ABSTRACT:

The present invention is a system that includes a first financial management system handling receivables and a second financial management system handling payables. The receivables system sends debt offset information to an offset payment system and the payables system sends payment information to the offset payments system. The offset payment system either makes a payment or offsets the payment with the debt. The financial management systems receive offset information from the offset payment system. The system designates debt and payments that are suitable for offset using threshold criteria. The system allows administrative fees and other charges, such as interrest and penalties, to be added to the debt. During the referral of the debt to the offset payments system, the debtor as well as other parties, such as credit bureaus, are informed or notified of the delinquent debt.

When an offset occurs the system feeds the amount of the offset back to the receivables and payables systems to update the records therein to reflect the amount and that the amount was an offset. That is, an authorized payment is shown as fully or partially offset and a debt is shown as fully or partially satisfy via the offset. The records of financial management systems are updated when a payment is made by the debtor after a referral has occurred, when a decision is made to write-off the debt. The invention also provides for reconciliation. Online access to the records is also provided.

2 Claims, 18 Drawing figures

L21: Entry 22 of 23   File: USPT   Mar 11, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6532450 B1
TITLE: Financial management system including an offset payment process

Brief Summary Text (5):
As part of their business processing, many organizations perform accounts payable
and accounts receivable functions. In larger organizations (such as the federal
government and multinational corporations) these functions are typically supported
by the use of a financial management system (such as the American Management
System--AMS--Momentum.TM. system). Many large organizations (like the federal
government or the multinational corporations) have distinct operational entities
(e.g., federal agencies in the federal government or independent entities with the
corporation) that each perform financial management functions such as accounts
payable and accounts receivable. Each of these operational entities run the
financial management system in support of their operations.

Drawing Description Text (6):
FIG. 4 shows the accounts payable processes.

Drawing Description Text (17):
FIG. 15 shows updating accounts payable based on an offset

Detailed Description Text (3):
FIG. 1 depicts an overall offset process 10 within which the present invention
operates. As part of the accounts receivable processing, an organization's
operational entity 12 (such as a first federal agency or a first division of a
company) using a financial management system 14, such as that previously mentioned,
refers delinquent debt, in the form of a delinquent debt file 16, to a third-party
offset payment system 18. Similarly, as part of the accounts payable processing, an
organization's operational entity 20 (such as a second federal agency or a second
division of a company) using a financial management system 22, such as that
previously mentioned, sends payments, in the form of a payments file 24, to the
third-party system 18 which can be another federal agency or a third division
within a company. The offset payment system 18 matches payments against delinquent
debts. If no match occurs 26, a full payment is made to the payee 28. If a match
occurs, the payment is offset up to the full amount. If the delinquent debt amount
is less than the payment amount and a partial offset is needed 30, a partial
payment is issued to the payee 28. If the delinquent debt amount is greater than or
equal to the payment amount, no payment is issued to the payee. The offset payment
system may notify the payee/debtor and does notify 32 the operational entities 12
and 20 of the offset.

Detailed Description Text (4):
The focus of offset systems like TOP is to perform the match of payments against
delinquent debt and offset the payment as applicable. As such, the conventional
systems do not deal with the various functions related to the operational entity's
detailed accounts payable, accounts receivable, and customer service business
areas. The business functions that exist as a result of having a third-party
offsetting mechanism need to be supported within the operational entities. For
example, within accounts receivable, the introduction of an offset payment system
impacts areas such as the referral of debt, tracking and management of debt

information, write-off's, collections, and debtor queries. Within <u>accounts payable,</u>
the offset payment system impacts areas such as the generation of payments,
tracking offsets, and payee queries.

Detailed Description Text (6):
Within the <u>accounts payable</u> business area, this invention provides support in the
financial management system for the following functions: Flexible determination of
whether a payment is subject to offset. <u>Accounts payable</u> updates for offset
payment.

Detailed Description Text (7):
In addition, this invention provides support in the financial management system for
the following functions that span <u>accounts payable</u> and accounts receivable business
areas: Receipt of offset payment information in multiple media. Direct online
access to the offset system. Querying, tracking, and analysis of offsets.

Detailed Description Text (10):
FIG. 3 is a flowchart of the overall accounts receivable processes supported by the
invention while FIG. 4 is a flowchart of the overall <u>accounts payable</u> processes
supported by the invention. FIGS. 5-13 will be used to describe the receivables
process in more detail, FIGS. 14 and 15 will be used to describe the payables
process in more detail and FIGS. 16-18 will be used to described other functions
performed by the invention.

Detailed Description Text (11):
The financial management system 14 (see FIG. 3) for the receivables side of the
offset process determines which <u>accounts</u> need to be selected for inclusion in the
debt file 16, determines any <u>accounting</u> charges and determines any updates to the
debt file based on <u>payments</u> that the debtor makes as well as any writeoffs of the
debt and the file 16 is provided to the offset <u>payment</u> system 18. The system 14 can
also automatically send a notification 32 to the debtor 28. At the same time the
system 14 optionally notifies a <u>credit</u> bureau 78 of the delinquent debt referral
using a referral data file 80 and if desired a notification letter 82. At this time
the financial management system 14 can provide data concerning the debtor to other
destinations. For example, a procurement system or a <u>vendor</u> database 84 can be
notified that the debtor has been found delinquent allowing the procurement system
84 to select the debtor for purchases that can be later offset. An enterprise wide
data warehouse 86 can store the data for use in statistical analysis of debt
transactions. Third parties 88, such as the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, can be
informed about the writeoff. The reporting capability also allows a warning to be
provided to other third parties that can allow them to avoid establishing business
relationships with the debtor. The offset system 18 can notify the debtor 28 by
letter 90 as well as provide an offset notification file 92 back to the financial
management system 14 allowing the system 14 to show the debt, or a portion thereof,
as having been satisfied via an offset. The notification can also indicate whether
the debtor has been notified by the system 18 allowing system 14 to avoid
duplication. The notification can also indicate what entities were involved with
the offset. The debtor can make an inquiry of the system to determine the size of
the debt or remaining debt if offset. When the debtor 28 makes a <u>payment,</u> the
financial management system 14 performs the processes to update the various files.
The system 14 can also allow the debt to be written off based on internal debt
writeoff criteria as well as set the debt as satisfied when bankruptcy information
about the debtor is received. Again the system updates the various files. These
operations will be discussed in more detail later herein.

Detailed Description Text (31):
As part of the <u>accounts payable</u> processes, the financial management system 22
includes the ability to generate payment records or files for disbursement through
a third-party (such as Treasury FMS for federal government payments). To support
the third-party offset system, the payment process includes a process 490 as shown

in FIG. 14 that determines which payments are subject to an offset. For example, payments for a scholarship program may not be subject to an offset even when an educational institution owes the government money for other reasons. When a payment 492 is authorized the system determines 492 if the specific payment is subject to offset by accessing the payment criteria portion 496 of the payables system database. The criteria for offset may vary based upon the specific type of the payment, the specific payee, the payee category, the project associated with the payment, the type of expense associated with the payment, or the specific payment document. An offset indicator is provided in the financial management system payment records 496 that defines the different types of payments, the projects, the payees, the payee categories, the types of expenses, and the payment document. A payment will only be subject to offset if all of the indicators indicate that it is subject to offset. If it is not subject to offset the payment records are so updated 498.

Detailed Description Text (38):
The financial management system (payable 22 and receivable 14 systems) and the offset payment system 18 contain debt records and offset payment data. Given that these are independent systems, the data in the systems needs be reconciled to ensure that they are synchronized. A reconciliation process is provided by the present invention through the direct online connection to the offset system 18. The reconciliation can be partial (i.e., the reconciliation of a user-defined set of data) or full (i.e., the complete reconciliation of all data in the systems). The reconciliation is invoked 602 and the system determines 604 whether it is an online (e.g., through a user prompt) or offline (e.g., through the execution of an offline job) reconciliation. If it is offline the system sets 606 the process for offline execution. If online a determination 608 is made as to whether the reconciliation will run as a "while you wait" query 610 with the appropriate priorities set 610 or as a daemon process running in the background where priorities are set 612 differently. With the appropriate priorities set the system retrieves the reconciliation criteria 614, such as the range of records to be reconciled, and performs the reconciliation 616. In performing the reconciliation, the financial management system receivable or payment records 613 referred for offset are accessed. Each receivable or payment record is compared to the corresponding record in the offset payment system 18. The reconciliation output 618 is available in numerous formats including online query 620, hard copy report 622, or in electronic file format 624. The system also determines 626 whether a discrepancy exists and if so whether 628 synchronization is to be performed. For example, a debt referral record in the financial management system might have an amount of $2000. The same record in the offset system might have an amount of $20000. Invoking the synchronization based on the financial management system option in this case will result in the creation of a debt update file 630 correction transaction for $2000 synchronizing the offset system 18 with the financial management system 14. Invoking the synchronization based on offset system option in this case will result in the creation of a receivable modification transaction 630 netting to $20000 in the financial management system receivables file 634 synchronizing the financial management system 14 with the offset system 18. In addition, a financial management system query 635 provides, through the use of conventional database query processes, a front-end to the offset payment system for user queries.

Current US Class (1):
705

Other Reference Publication (11):
American Management Systems, Inc., Accounts Payable, Momentum Financials User's Guide, Version 3.0, Aug., 1997, pps. 1-4.

CLAIMS:

1. A process interacting with an offset payment system, said process comprising:

determining, within a computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system separate from the offset payment system, debt to be referred for offset payment responsive to debt selection criteria comprising debt age, debt amount and number of delinquent notices; adding, within the computer implemented financial management system, to the debt administrative charges, interest and penalties; limiting, within the computer implemented financial management system, the debt offset by an offset percentage; referring the debt to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; determining, within a computer implemented accounts payable financial management system separate from the accounts receivable system, a payment to be referred for offset of a debt responsive to payment selection criteria comprising payment type, payee and expense type; referring the payment to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system, debt records responsive to an offset by the offset payment system the debt records comprising general ledger records, budget records and planning records; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts payable financial management system, payment records responsive to the offset by the offset payment system; accepting a payment from a debtor; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the payment; accepting a write-off authorization for a debt; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the write-off; reconciling, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, payments, debts and offsets; accepting a bankruptcy notification for a debt; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the notification; notifying a debtor of the referral and the offset; notifying a third party of the referral; creating, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, document images for referrals and notifications for using images in work flow operations; and providing online access to offset payment records.

2. A process interacting with an offset payment system, said process comprising: determining, within a computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system separate from the offset payment system, debt to be referred for offset payment responsive to debt selection criteria comprising at least one of debt age, debt amount and number of delinquent notices; adding, within the computer implemented financial management system, to the debt administrative charges, interest and penalties; referring the debt to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; determining, within a computer implemented accounts payable financial management system separate from the accounts receivable system, a payment to be referred for offset of a debt responsive to payment selection criteria comprising at least one of payment type, payee and expense type; referring the payment to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system, debt records responsive to an offset by the offset payment system the debt records comprising at least one of general ledger records, budget and plan records; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts payable financial management system, payment records responsive to the offset by the offset payment system; accepting a payment from a debtor; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the payment; accepting a write-off authorization for a debt; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable financial management systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the

offset payment system responsive to the write-off; notifying a debtor of the
referral and the offset; and

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L21: Entry 20 of 23              File: USPT           Jun 21, 2005
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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6910021 B2
TITLE: Financial management system including an offset payment process

Brief Summary Text (5):
As part of their business processing, many organizations perform accounts payable
and accounts receivable functions. In larger organizations (such as the federal
government and multinational corporations) these functions are typically supported
by the use of a financial management system (such as the American Management
System--AMS--Momentum.TM. system). Many large organizations (like the federal
government or the multinational corporations) have distinct operational entities
(e.g., federal agencies in the federal government or independent entities with the
corporation) that each perform financial management functions such as accounts
payable and accounts receivable. Each of these operational entities run the
financial management system in support of their operations.

Drawing Description Text (5):
FIG. 4 shows the accounts payable processes.

Drawing Description Text (16):
FIG. 15 shows updating accounts payable based on an offset.

Detailed Description Text (3):
FIG. 1 depicts an overall offset process 10 within which the present invention
operates. As part of the accounts receivable processing, an organization's
operational entity 12 (such as a first federal agency or a first division of a
company) using a financial management system 14, such as that previously mentioned,
refers delinquent debt, in the form of a delinquent debt file 16, to a third-party
offset payment system 18. Similarly, as part of the accounts payable processing, an
organization's operational entity 20 (such as a second federal agency or a second
division of a company) using a financial management system 22, such as that
previously mentioned, sends payments, in the form of a payments file 24, to the
third-party system 18 which can be another federal agency or a third division
within a company. The offset payment system 18 matches payments against delinquent
debts. If no match occurs 26, a full payment is made to the payee 28. If a match
occurs, the payment is offset up to the full amount. If the delinquent debt amount
is less than the payment amount and a partial offset is needed 30, a partial
payment is issued to the payee 28. If the delinquent debt amount is greater than or
equal to the payment amount, no payment is issued to the payee. The offset payment
system may notify the payee/debtor and does notify 32 the operational entities 12
and 20 of the offset.

Detailed Description Text (4):
The focus of offset systems like TOP is to perform the match of payments against
delinquent debt and offset the payment as applicable. As such, the conventional
systems do not deal with the various functions related to the operational entity's
detailed accounts payable, accounts receivable, and customer service business
areas. The business functions that exist as a result of having a third-party
offsetting mechanism need to be supported within the operational entities. For
example, within accounts receivable, the introduction of an offset payment system
impacts areas such as the referral of debt, tracking and management of debt

information, write-offs, collections, and debtor queries. Within <u>accounts payable,</u> the offset payment system impacts areas such as the generation of payments, tracking offsets, and payee queries.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (15):
Within the <u>accounts payable</u> business area, this invention provides support in the financial management system for the following functions:

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (17):
<u>Accounts payable</u> updates for offset payment.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (18):
In addition, this invention provides support in the financial management system for the following functions that span <u>accounts payable</u> and accounts receivable business areas:

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (24):
FIG. 3 is a flowchart of the overall accounts receivable processes supported by the invention while FIG. 4 is a flowchart of the overall <u>accounts payable</u> processes supported by the invention. FIGS. 5-13 will be used to describe the receivables process in more detail, FIGS. 14 and 15 will be used to describe the payables process in more detail and FIGS. 16-18 will be used to described other functions performed by the invention.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (25):
The financial management system 14 (see FIG. 3) for the receivables side of the offset process determines which <u>accounts</u> need to be selected for inclusion in the debt file 16, determines any <u>accounting</u> charges and determines any updates to the debt file based on <u>payments</u> that the debtor makes as well as any writeoffs of the debt and the file 16 is provided to the offset <u>payment</u> system 18. The system 14 can also automatically send a notification 32 to the debtor 28. At the same time the system 14 optionally notifies a <u>credit</u> bureau 78 of the delinquent debt referral using a referral data file 80 and if desired a notification letter 82. At this time the financial management system 14 can provide data concerning the debtor to other destinations. For example, a procurement system or a <u>vendor</u> database 84 can be notified that the debtor has been found delinquent allowing the procurement system 84 to select the debtor for purchases that can be later offset. An enterprise wide data warehouse 86 can store the data for use in statistical analysis of debt transactions. Third parties 88, such as the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, can be informed about the writeoff. The reporting capability also allows a warning to be provided to other third parties that can allow them to avoid establishing business relationships with the debtor. The offset system 18 can notify the debtor 28 by letter 90 as well as provide an offset notification file 92 back to the financial management system 14 allowing the system 14 to show the debt, or a portion thereof, as having been satisfied via an offset. The notification can also indicate whether the debtor has been notified by the system 18 allowing system 14 to avoid duplication. The notification can also indicate what entities were involved with the offset. The debtor can make an inquiry of the system to determine the size of the debt or remaining debt if offset. When the debtor 28 makes a <u>payment,</u> the financial management system 14 performs the processes to update the various files. The system 14 can also allow the debt to be written off based on internal debt writeoff criteria as well as set the debt as satisfied when bankruptcy information about the debtor is received. Again the system updates the various files. These operations will be discussed in more detail later herein.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (50):
As part of the <u>accounts payable</u> processes, the financial management system 22 includes the ability to generate payment records or files for disbursement through a third-party (such as Treasury FMS for federal government payments). To support the third-party offset system, the payment process includes a process 490 as shown

in FIG. 14 that determines which payments are subject to an offset. For example,
payments for a scholarship program may not be subject to an offset even when an
educational institution owes the government money for other reasons. When a payment
492 is authorized the system determines 492 if the specific payment is subject to
offset by accessing the payment criteria portion 496 of the payables system
database. The criteria for offset may vary based upon the specific type of the
payment, the specific payee, the payee category, the project associated with the
payment, the type of expense associated with the payment, or the specific payment
document. An offset indicator is provided in the financial management system
payment records 496 that defines the different types of payments, the projects, the
payees, the payee categories, the types of expenses, and the payment document. A
payment will only be subject to offset if all of the indicators indicate that it is
subject to offset. If it is not subject to offset the payment records are so
updated 498.

Detailed Description Text (63):
The financial management system (payable 22 and receivable 14 systems) and the
offset payment system 18 contain debt records and offset payment data. Given that
these are independent systems, the data in the systems needs be reconciled to
ensure that they are synchronized. A reconciliation process is provided by the
present invention through the direct online connection to the offset system 18. The
reconciliation can be partial (i.e., the reconciliation of a user-defined set of
data) or full (i.e., the complete reconciliation of all data in the systems). The
reconciliation is invoked 602 and the system determines 604 whether it is an online
(e.g., through a user prompt) or offline (e.g., through the execution of an offline
job) reconciliation. If it is offline the system sets 606 the process for offline
execution. If online a determination 608 is made as to whether the reconciliation
will run as a while you wait query 610 with the appropriate priorities set 610 or
as a domain process running in the background where priorities are set 612
differently. With the appropriate priorities set the system retrieves the
reconciliation criteria 614, such as the range of records to be reconciled, and
performs the reconciliation 616. In performing the reconciliation, the financial
management system receivable or payment records 613 referred for offset are
accessed. Each receivable or payment record is compared to the corresponding record
in the offset payment system 18. The reconciliation output 618 is available in
numerous formats including online query 620, hard copy report 622, or in electronic
file format 624. The system also determines 626 whether a discrepancy exists and if
so whether 628 synchronization is to be performed. For example, a debt referral
record in the financial management system might have an amount of $2000. The same
record in the offset system might have an amount of $20000. Invoking the
synchronization based on the financial management system option in this case will
result in the creation of a debt update file 630 correction transaction for $2000
synchronizing the offset system 18 with the financial management system 14.
Invoking the synchronization based on offset system option in this case will result
in the creation of a receivable modification transaction 630 netting to $20000 in
the financial management system receivables file 634 synchronizing the financial
management system 14 with the offset system 18. In addition, a financial management
system query 635 provides, through the use of conventional database query
processes, a front-end to the offset payment system for user queries.

Current US Class (1):
705

Other Reference Publication (4):
American Management Systems, Inc., Accounts Payable, Momentum Financials User's
Guide, Version 3.0, Aug., 1997, pps. 1-4.

CLAIMS:

1. A process interacting with an offset payment system, said process comprising:

determining, within a computer implemented accounts receivable system separate from the offset payment system, debt to be referred for offset payment responsive to debt selection criteria; referring the debt to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; determining, within a computer implemented accounts payable system separate from the accounts receivable system, a payment to be referred for offset of a debt responsive to payment selection criteria referring the payment to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable system, debt records responsive to an offset by the offset payment system; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts payable system, payment records responsive to the offset by the offset payment system; recording a payment from a debtor; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the payment; posting a write-off authorization for a debt; updating automatically, within the computer implemented accounts receivable and accounts payable systems, the payment and the debt records and updating the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the write-off; notifying a debtor of the referral and the offset; and providing online access to offset payment records.

3. A system as in claim 1, wherein the accounts receivable system and the accounts payable system are respective components of a financial management system.

4. A system as in claim 1, wherein the payment from a debtor is recorded in the accounts payable system after being one of received directly by the accounts payable system and received through an interface with another system.

5. A system as in claim 1, wherein the write-off authorization is recorded in the accounts payable system after being one of received directly by the accounts payable system and received through an interface with another system.

6. A payment process interacting with an offset payment system, said process comprising: determining, within a computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system separate from the offset payment system, debt to be referred for offset payment responsive to debt selection criteria; referring the debt to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; determining, within a computer implemented accounts payable financial management system separate from the accounts receivable system, a payment to be referred for offset of a debt responsive to payment selection criteria; referring the payment to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; and updating automatically debt records, within the computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system, responsive to an offset by the offset payment system and updating automatically payment records, within the computer implemented accounts payable financial management system, responsive to the offset by the offset payment system.

12. A process as recited in claim 6, further comprising: accepting a payment from a debtor; and updating automatically the payment and the debt records in the accounts receivable and payable systems and updating automatically the offset records in the offset payment system responsive to the payment.

14. A process as recited in claim 6, further comprising reconciling payments, debts and offsets within the offset, accounts payable and accounts receivable systems.

23. A process interacting with an offset payment system, comprising: accessing payment selection criteria within a computer implemented accounts payable financial management system separate from the offset payment system; determining, within the computer implemented accounts payable financial management system, a payment to be referred for offset of a debt responsive to payment selection criteria; referring of the payment, by the computer implemented financial management system, to an

offset payment system responsive to the determination; accessing debt selection criteria within a computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system separate from the offset payment system; determining, within the computer implemented accounts receivable financial management system, debt to be referred for offset payment responsive to the debt selection criteria; referring of the debt, by the computer implemented financial management system, to the offset payment system responsive to the determination; and performing multiparty accounting functions allocating monies relative to multiple sources and multiple destinations within the accounts payable and accounts receivable financial management systems responsive to the referred debt.